THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO

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iPad® 3 SCREEN REPAIR

THE DEFINITIVE STEP BY STEP GUIDE WITH PHOTOS AND TECH TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL IPAD SCREEN REPAIR

Introduction

For iPad Models: A1403, A1416, A1430

Why Did I Write This Guide?

To solve a common problem that iPad users have – a broken screen. I've read many guides online that provide information on the repair, but many of these guides are incomplete or hard to read. This guide has all the elements needed to complete the repair successfully and it has been created in a way that's very easy to read. Everything from a map of where to put the adhesive strips to the tools that make the repair easier. I wrote this guide so that anyone can repair their iPad 3 screen, and be successful.

Who Is This Guide For?

After hearing many stories from DIYer's having troubles repairing their own iPads, I set out to compile all the best information on this topic and put it one easy to read guide. I have found the best iPad repair tips and tools available and combined that information with our own in-house experience of over 3,000 successful iPad screen repairs. Whether you have already done repairs in the past or you are looking to give it a try for the first time – this guide is for you! You can use our guide with all models of the iPad 3 with Retina Display, including the WIFI & 4G versions.

How Do I Use The Guide?

You should read this guide from beginning to end before you buy any tools or parts needed. Once you've read the guide and understand all that's involved, (you can always ask a question here) then I recommend ordering the parts and tools. When the parts arrive, then follow along with each step as you complete the repair. Read each step from start to finish before doing it yourself.

step one

BE SAFE

"As you may already know, those shards of glass can be dangerous! Before you start, I recommend you use these 3 things to protect yourself."

Eye Protection – Shards of glass will go airborne and fly at your face sometimes! Protect your eyes. I like to use DeWalt Safety Glasses, they are comfortable and provide decent protection.

Gloves – Avoid the dreaded glass splinter. I use a Tac-Ops Glove as it provides the most feedback during the repair process.

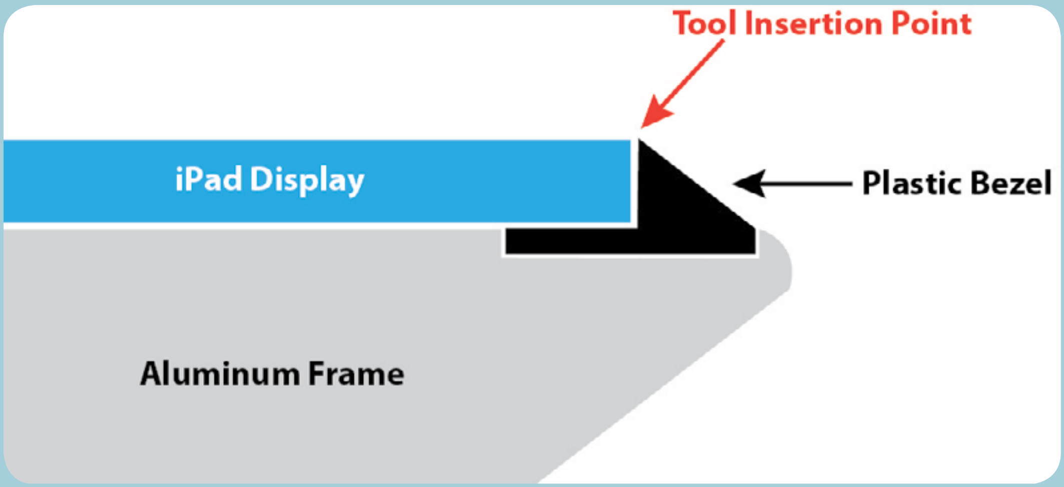
Packing Tape – Cover the front glass panel with clear packing tape before starting the repair. This will help keep those pieces of glass together and minimize the mess.

step two REMOVE THE BROKEN SCREEN

“This is the most difficult and time consuming portion of the repair – be patient and take your time. Be sure to use the right tools on this step or you will be making it harder on yourself. We recommend the iPad 3 Screen Repair Kit. The kit includes the basic tools and parts needed to complete the repair.”

{ Power down the iPad before you begin. }

The first thing you will need before you start removing the screen is a heating element. This will loosen the adhesive tape that resides underneath the outer border of the screen. iFixit recommends a product called the iOpener to heat up the edges of the iPad before removing the glass, but the repair can be completed with a common hair dryer or a heat gun. If you use a digital heat gun I recommend that you set it at 400° F.



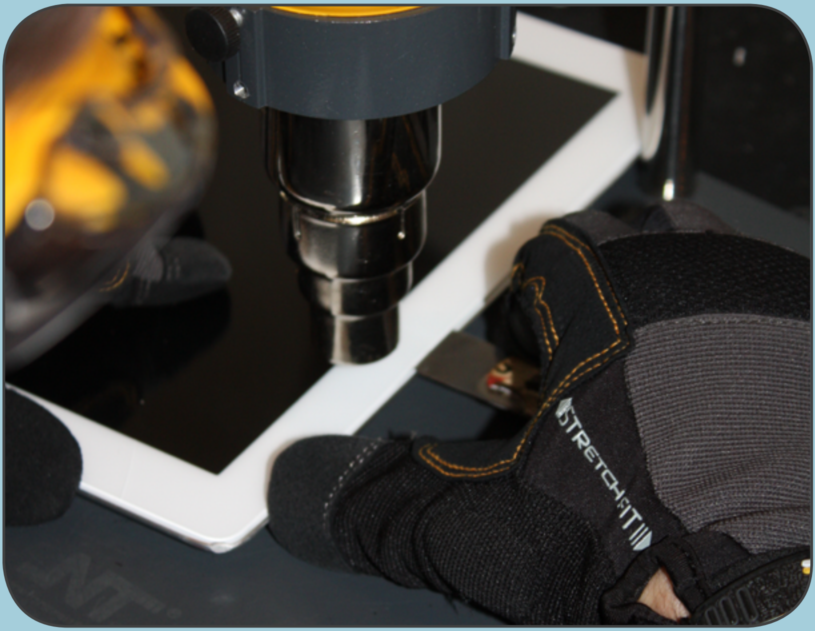
TECH TIP

Before inserting the prying tool. Preheat the area behind and ahead of the insertion point. This makes the glass more flexible and less likely to shatter as you are working with it.

Start by heating a 4-5 inch section of the screen along the outer edge of the iPad for about 30-45 seconds. Then insert the metal opening tool in between the edge of the glass and the plastic frame that separates the glass from the aluminum. If you accidentally slide the tool under the plastic frame it will probably need to be replaced.

The best place to first insert the tool is on the top right corner of the iPad, about 2 inches below the power button along the right edge. There is a gap in the adhesive that will make getting under the screen easier. For an even easier entry into the iPad, we recommend the iSesamo tool (shown below). It's a thin, flexible metal tool that can make this step much easier.

TECH ← TIP



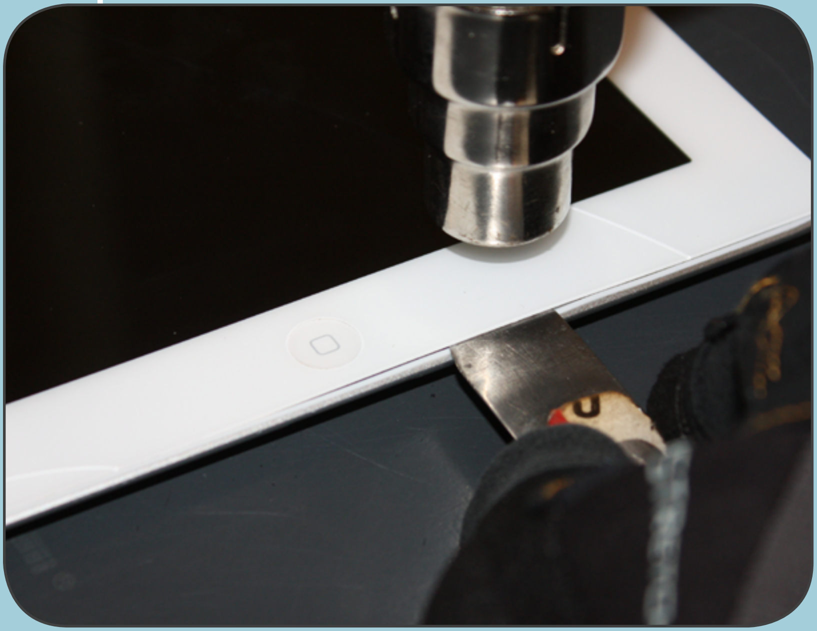
Once you have the tool under the screen you can start slowly moving the tool down the right hand side of the iPad. Insert the tool about 0.5 inches and continue heating 4-5 inches of the screen at a time as you move towards the bottom right corner. Once you get to the corner, go ahead and begin heating the part of the screen between the home button and the bottom right corner.

STOP!

There is a fragile WIFI antenna that resides underneath the screen to the right of the home button.

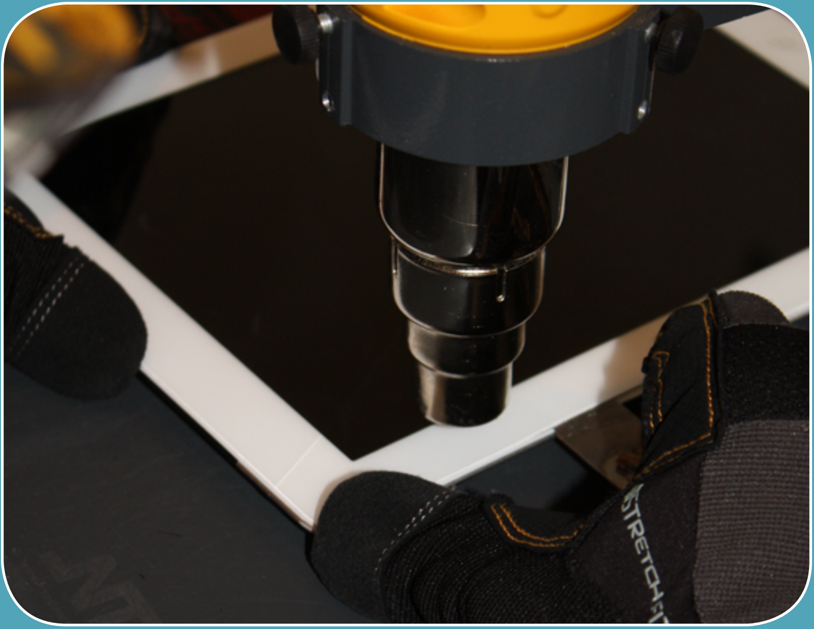
With the metal tool still under the bottom right corner of the iPad, pull the tool almost all the way out so that 1/8 inch of the tip is still under the glass. Slowly slide the tool along the bottom edge until it is safely on the left side of the home button.

Now it is safe to insert to tool back to the previous depth of 0.5 inches. Be sure to heat the bottom portion of the screen to the left of the home button before continuing.



Do not heat the home button for too long. The button is plastic and can melt easily.

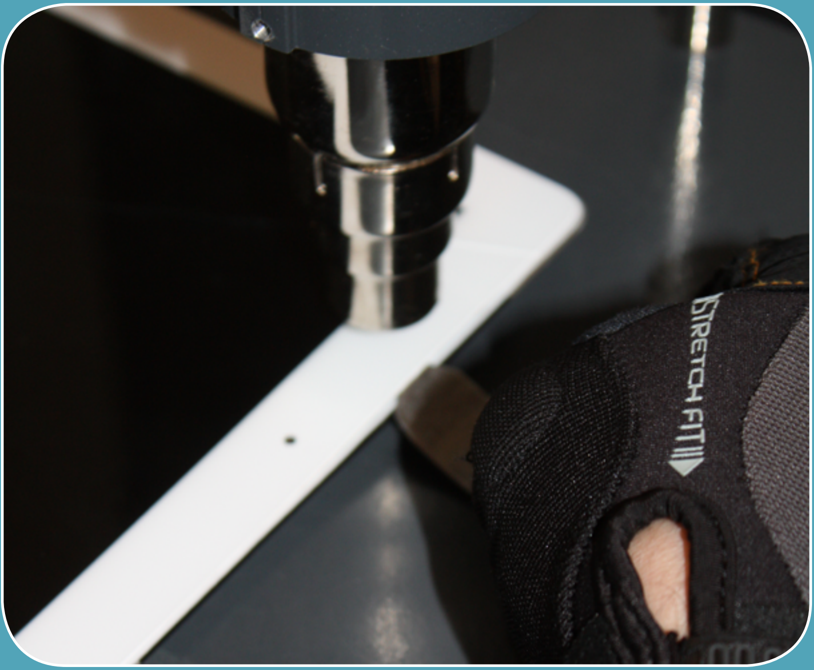
← TECH TIP



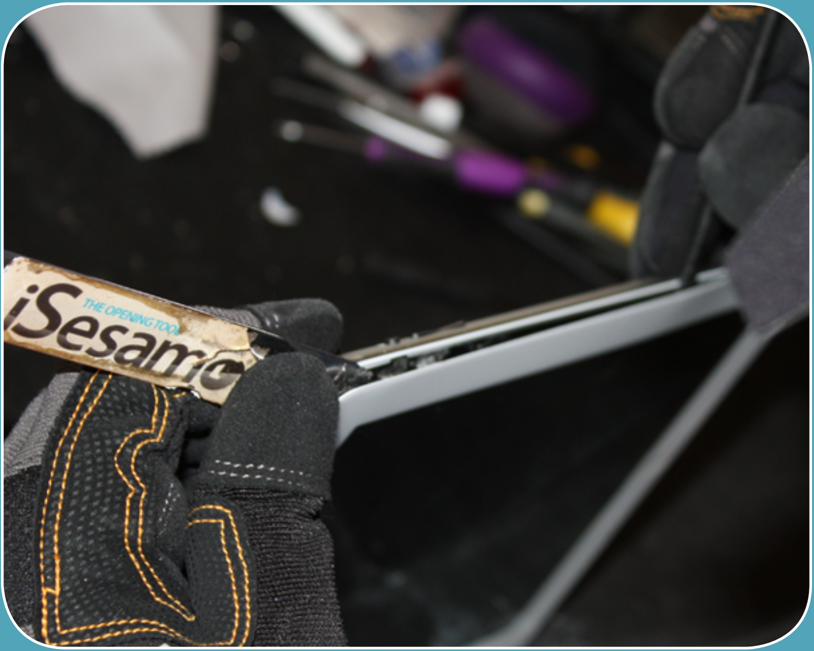
After reaching the bottom left corner you can continue separating the screen from the adhesive by moving up the left side of the iPad. You will want to pull the tool out from under the screen a little bit on this side. Maintain a depth of about 0.25 inches until you reach the top left corner of the iPad.

STOP!

If you have an iPad 3 with cellular data capability, (A1403 & A1430) you will have 2 antennas under the glass along the top of the iPad. They are on the right & left sides of the front facing camera

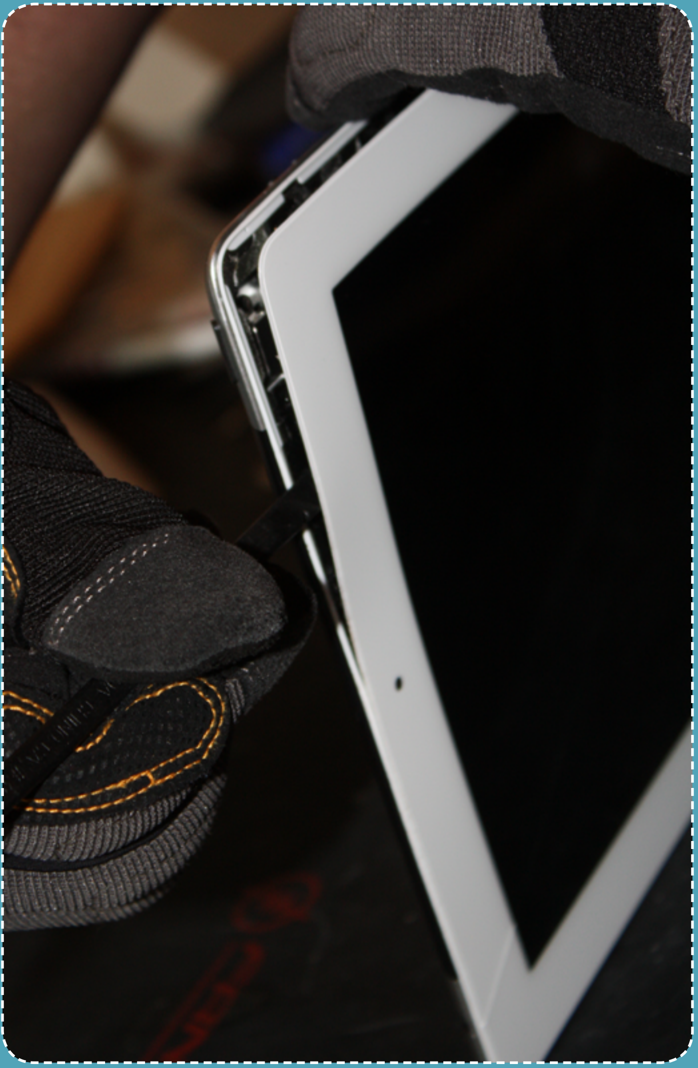


Starting from the top left corner, (after heating the glass) you will need to maintain a depth of only 1/8 inch as you go across the top of the iPad.



Once you reach the top right corner you can slide your tool down the right side of the iPad until you come to the spot where you originally started. Now you can start to pry open the glass in that corner. Once you are able to see inside the iPad you can go back down the top side of the iPad and carefully separate the two cellular antennas that may be sticking to the backside of the glass.

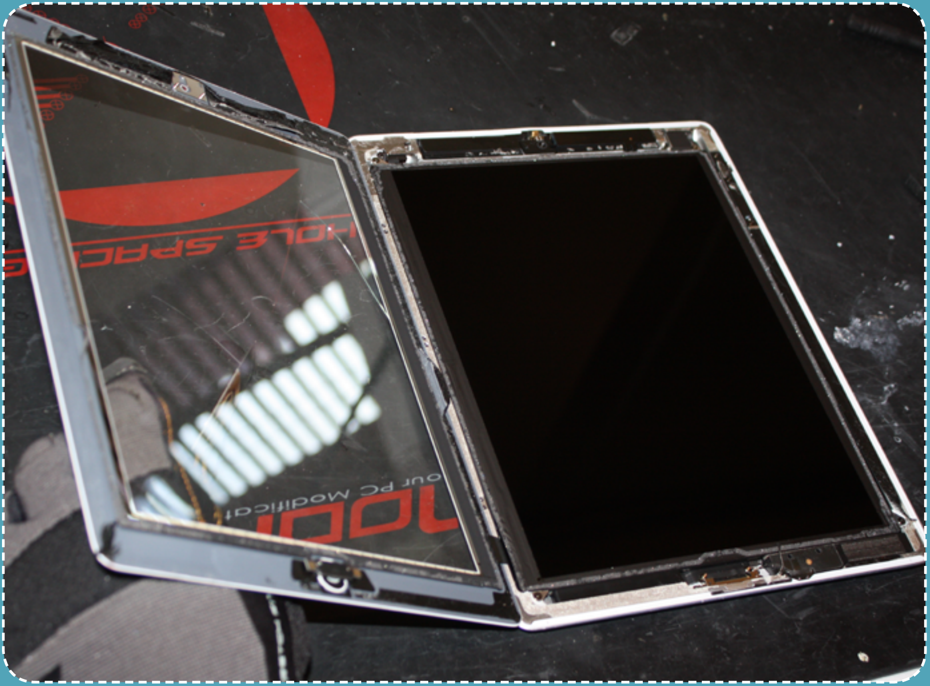
Now you should be able to lift the entire screen out of the iPad. You will want to open it like you are opening a book to the first page. Treat the left side of the iPad as a hinge and slowly open the screen from right to left. As you are just starting to open the screen, look underneath the glass on the bottom of the iPad just to the right of the home button.



STOP!

Make sure the WIFI antenna is not sticking to the underside of the glass to the right of the home button.

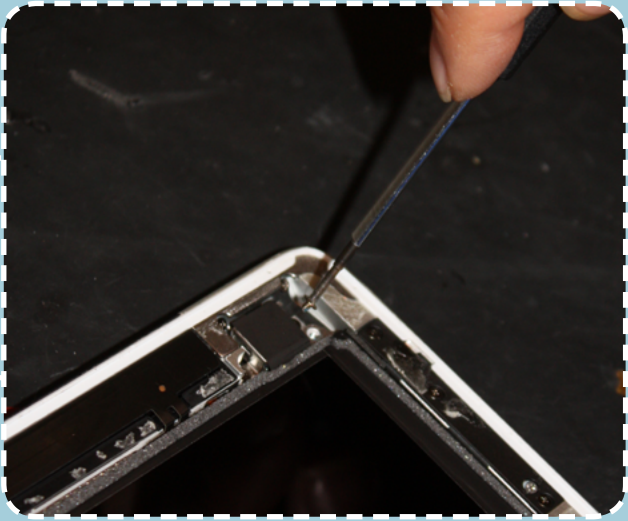
If it is sticking, insert your tool on the left side of the antenna (to the right of the home button) and separate it from the glass. Now you should be able to open the iPad the rest of the way. If any areas of the screen are still sticking to the frame, you can use the plastic opening tool to gently pry away the screen from the adhesive.



"You should now be staring at the inside of your iPad! Pat yourself on the back and tell yourself good job! The hardest part is now over."

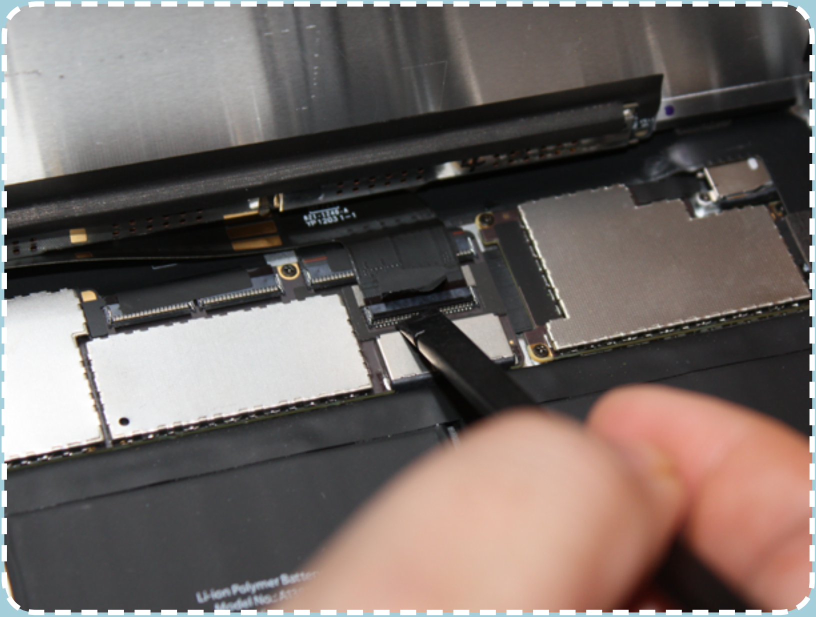
step three REMOVE LCD ASSEMBLY

Start by removing 4 phillips screws from the 4 corners of the LCD frame.



Next you can open the LCD from right to left (just like the screen). Use the left side of the LCD as a hinge and open the LCD to a 90° angle (in relation to the frame of the iPad).

Now use the pointed end of the plastic tool (included with the iPad 3 glass repair kit) to peel off the black tape that covers the LCD ribbon cable connector.



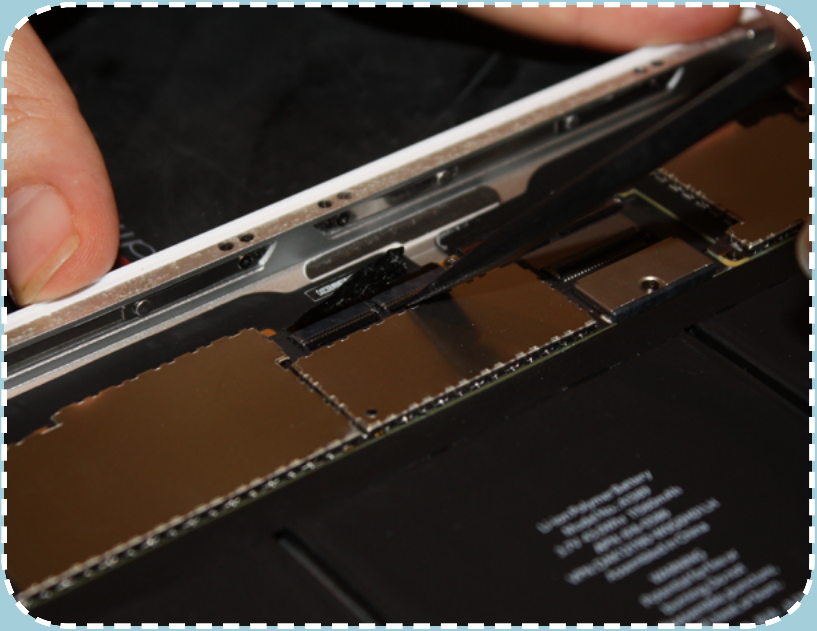
Flip up the small black retaining flap on the ZIF (Zero Insertion Force) connector.

Finish by pulling the LCD cable out of the connector. Now you can set the LCD off to the side.

TECH TIP →

Be extremely careful with the plastic retaining flap. It can very easily be damaged, only use the flat end of the plastic opening tool to open it.

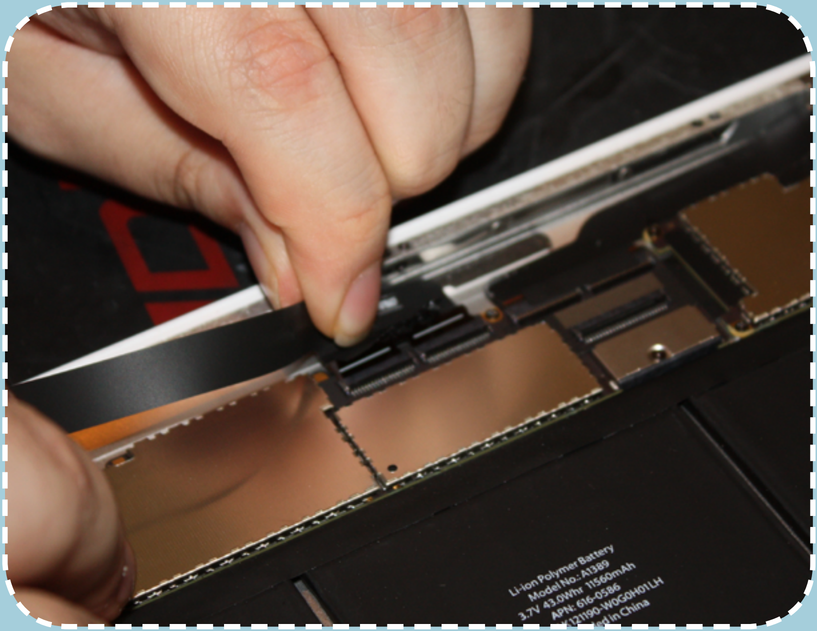
step four DISCONNECT DIGITIZER CABLE



Start by peeling away the black tape that holds the digitizer ribbon cable to the connector on the logic board.

Flip up both retaining flaps that hold the ribbon cable in place on the ZIF connectors.

Now pull the ribbon cable straight out of the connectors on the logic board.



You can now remove the digitizer ribbon cable from its recessed position inside the frame .

There is adhesive holding the cable down to the frame. Use the flat end of the plastic opening tool and slide it underneath the cable to loosen the adhesive.

Be extremely careful with the plastic retaining flaps. They can very easily be damaged, only use the flat end of the plastic opening tool to open these.

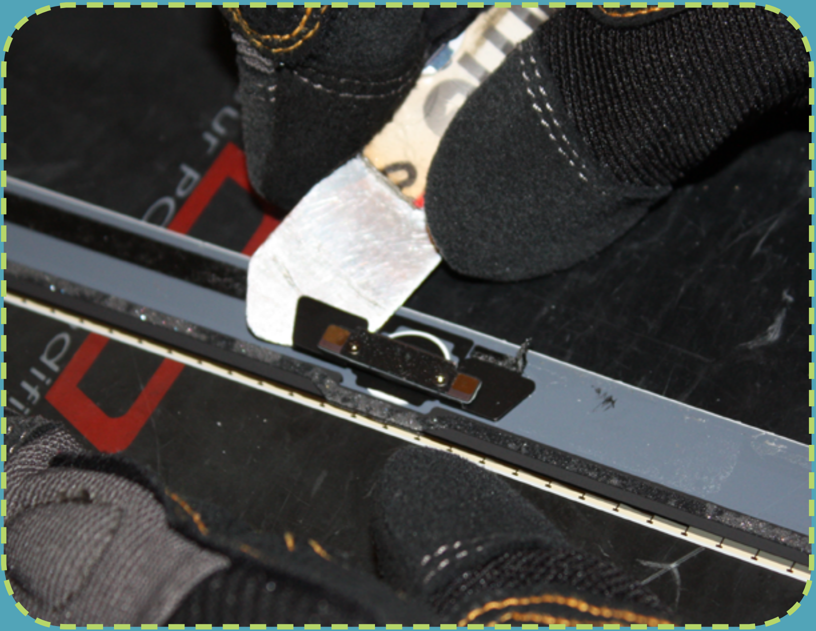
TECH TIP

step five

TRANSFER HOME BUTTON ASSEMBLY

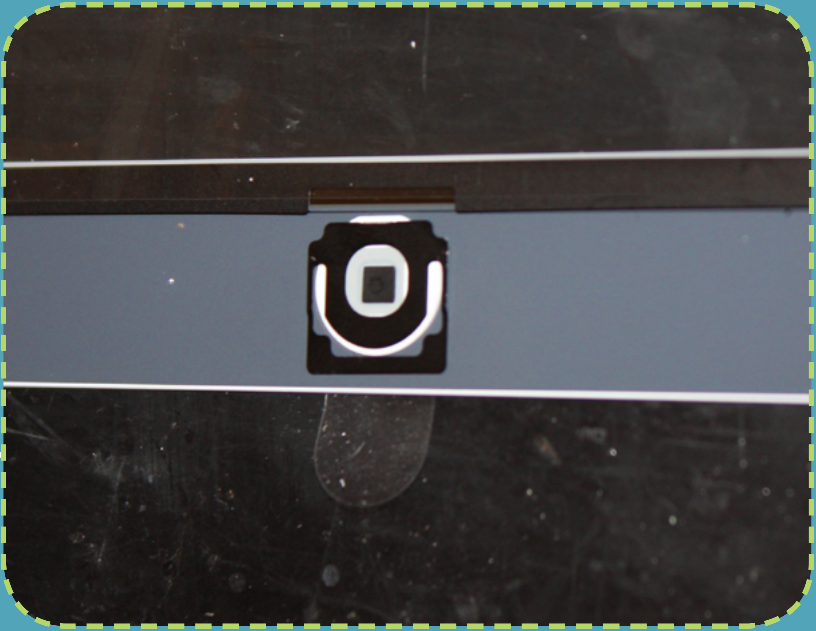
First, heat the area of the glass around the home button. Then flip the screen over so you are looking at the side with all the adhesive.

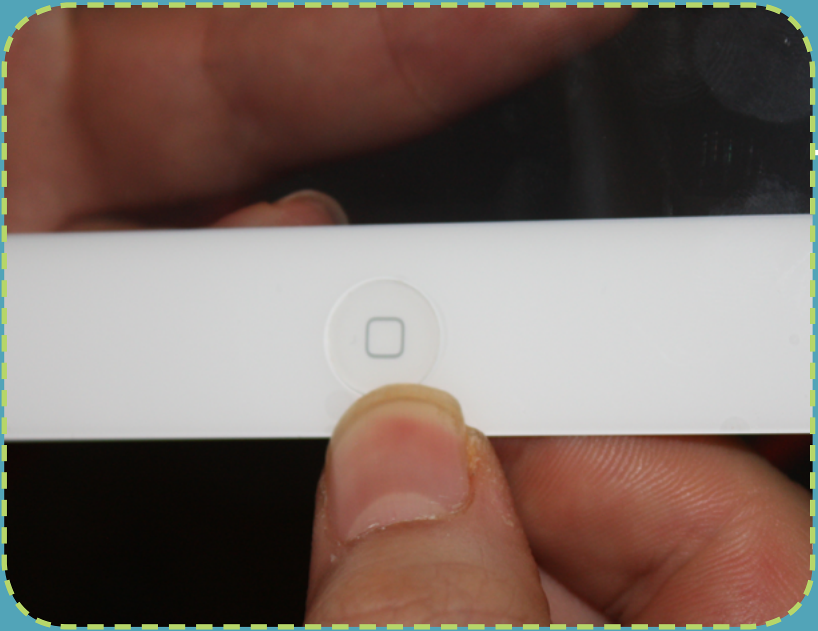
Start by sliding the plastic opening tool underneath the right side of the metal bridge that sits behind the home button. Then pry up until the right side comes loose. Then do the same thing on the left side.



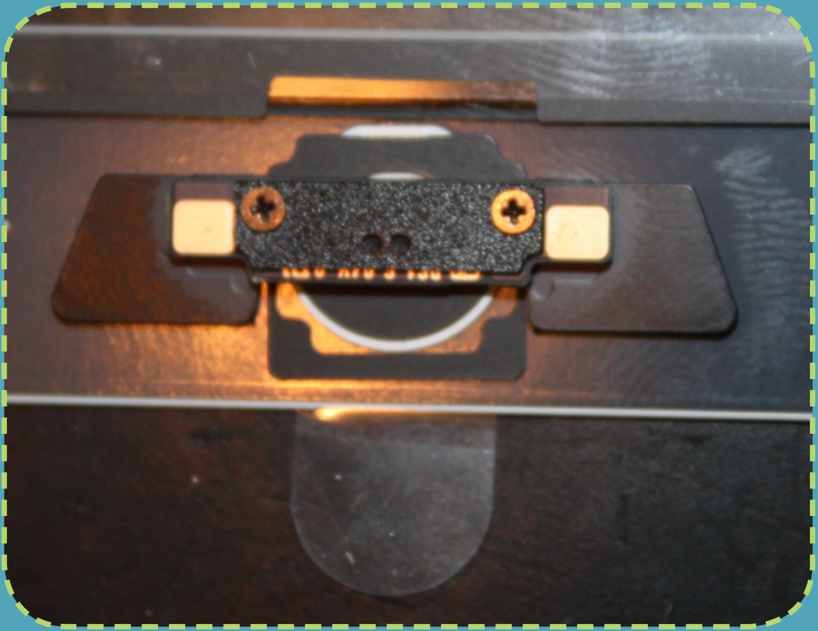
Now you are left with just the home button and the bracket that holds it in place. Insert the plastic opening tool on the top right corner of the home button bracket, then slide the tool down the right side. Do the same procedure on the left side of the home button. This should release the home button from the adhesive that holds it down.

Go ahead and start transferring the home button assembly to the new screen. Place the home button and the bracket in the hole in the new glass.

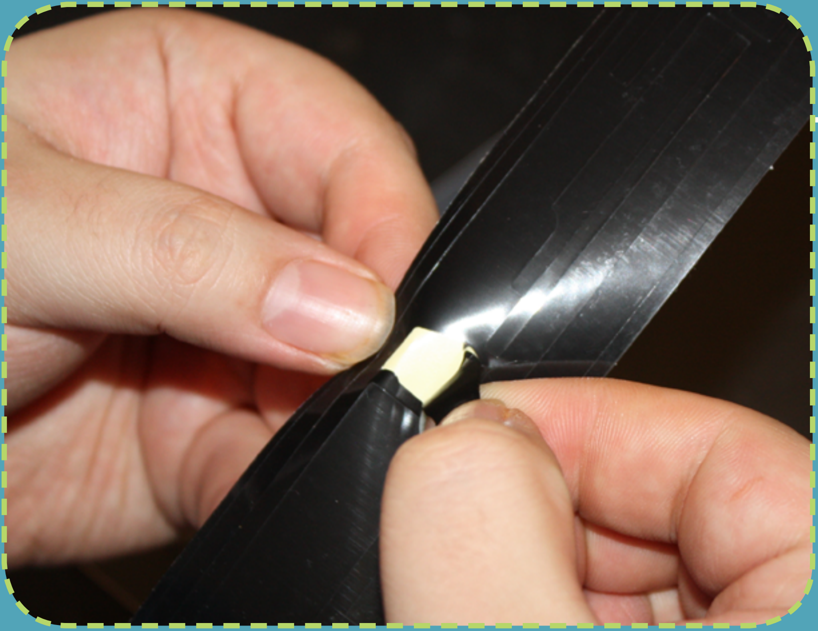




Look at the home button from the front and make sure it is straight.



Now take the home button bridge and secure it over the home button. Make sure it is level and centered or the home button will not work properly after the screen is installed.



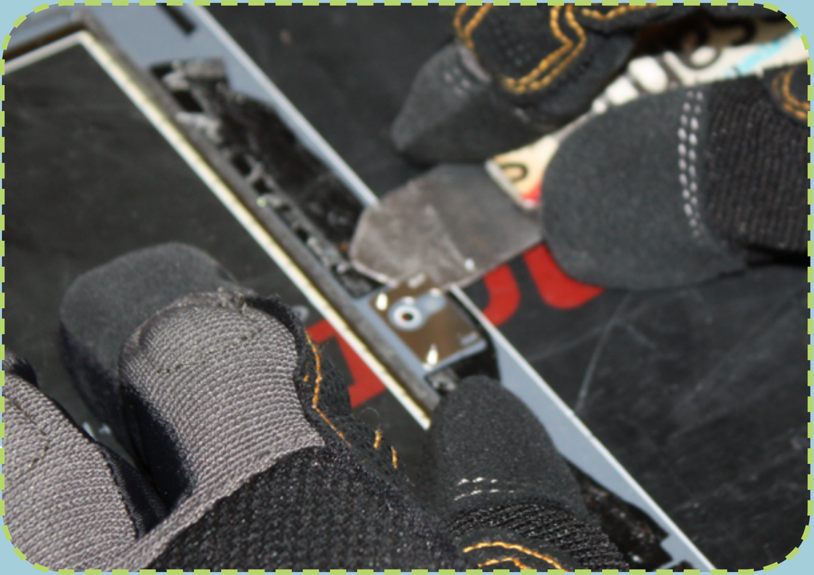
Use the 2 new adhesive strips to secure the home button bridge to the backside of the glass.

Finish this step by pressing the home button from the front to make sure it clicks properly. If it does, then move on to the next step! If not, then you'll need to take a look at the home button bridge and make sure it is installed properly.

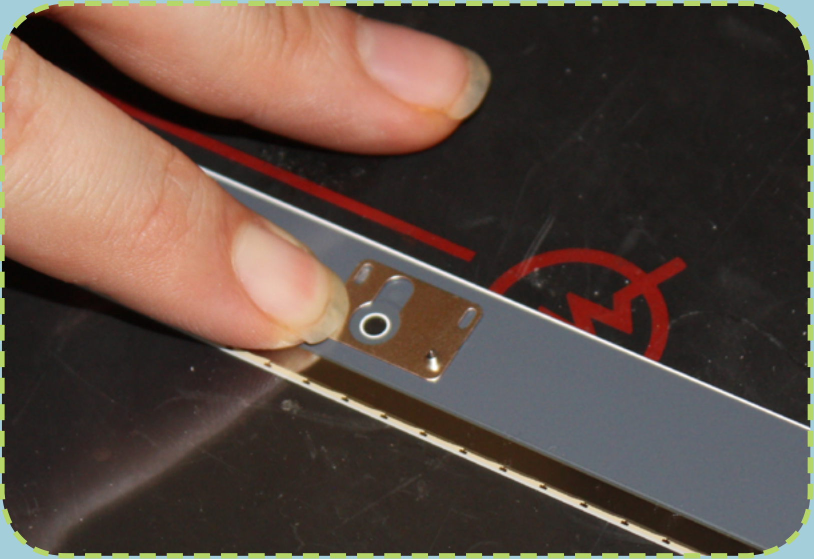
step six

TRANSFER FRONT CAMERA BRACKET

This step is very easy. As long as the glass is mostly in tact you will just need to use the flat end of the plastic opening tool to get under the metal bracket that lies behind the camera hole. Notice the orientation of this bracket on the broken screen. You will want it to be in the same place on the new glass.



Go ahead slide the metal opening tool or the iSesamo under the front camera bracket. It should come free without a signifant amount of force.



Now transfer the camera bracket to the new iPad screen, make sure the larger hole on the bracket is centered around the camera hole. The bracket should still have enough adhesive on it to stay in place. If it seems loose, we recommend a small amount of super gel. That should do the trick!

TECH TIP →

While lining up the hole on the camera bracket make sure the top of the bracket is parallel to the top of the glass. This will line up the camera so it doesn't take crooked pictures.

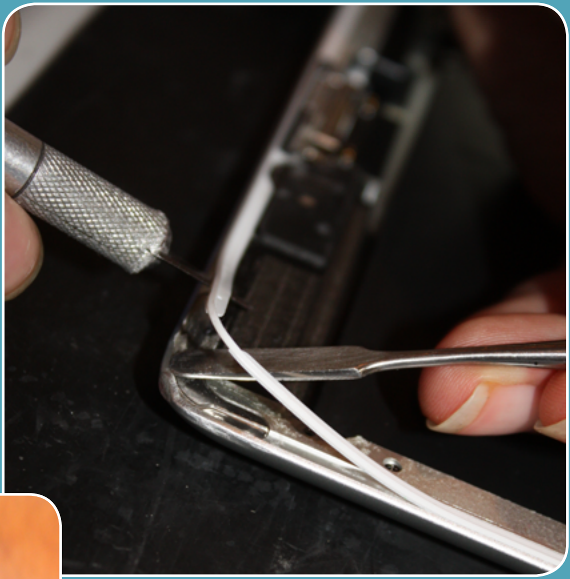
step seven

RESHAPE IPAD FRAME

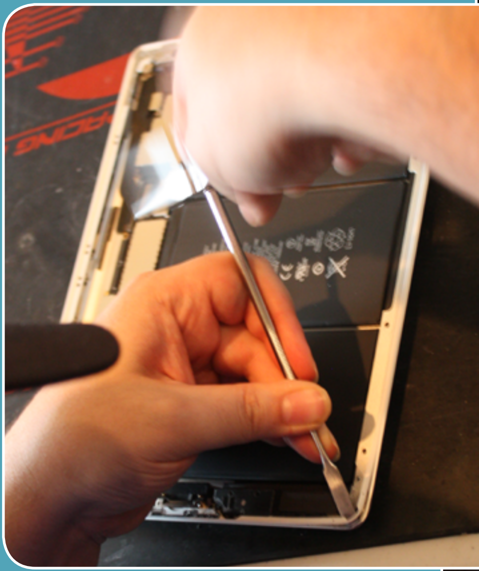
(ONLY IF DAMAGED)

This step is commonly skipped, yet it is very important for a successful repair.

If any part of the frame or corners of the iPad have been damaged or dented, you will need to reshape them. A good way to see if your corners are damaged is to place the new glass inside the iPad frame. If some of the corners don't appear to follow the same shape as the screen you will be installing, then you will need to do some corner work. The new screen should fit in the iPad frame without significant force.



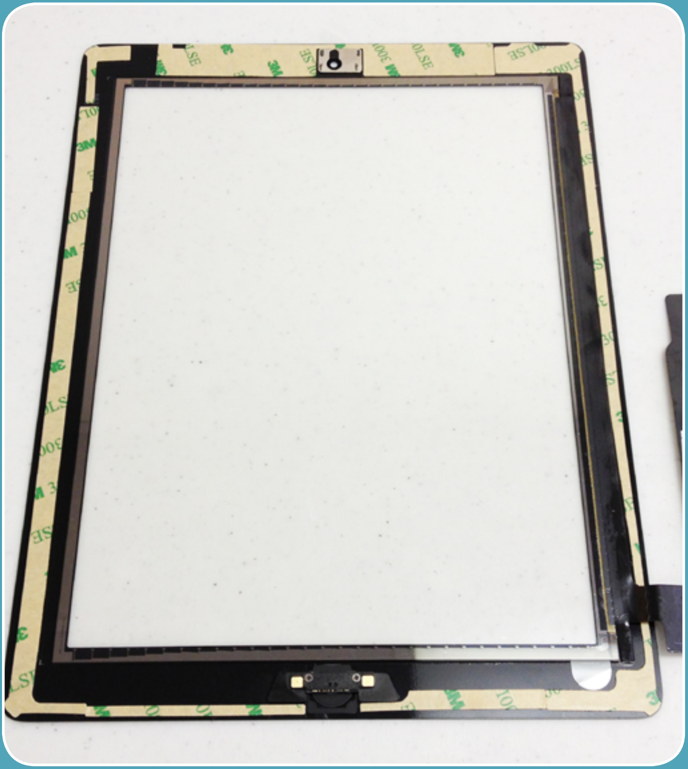
We recommend using the rounded end of the metal opening tool included with the kit to do corner repair. You will need to use a small metal tool like a pair of pliers to lightly tap on the opposite end of the metal opening tool.



If you see that the metal is taking the correct form, then place the new screen in the frame to make sure. If additional reshaping is needed, you may need to apply more pressure on the metal tool as you tap the frame back to its original position.

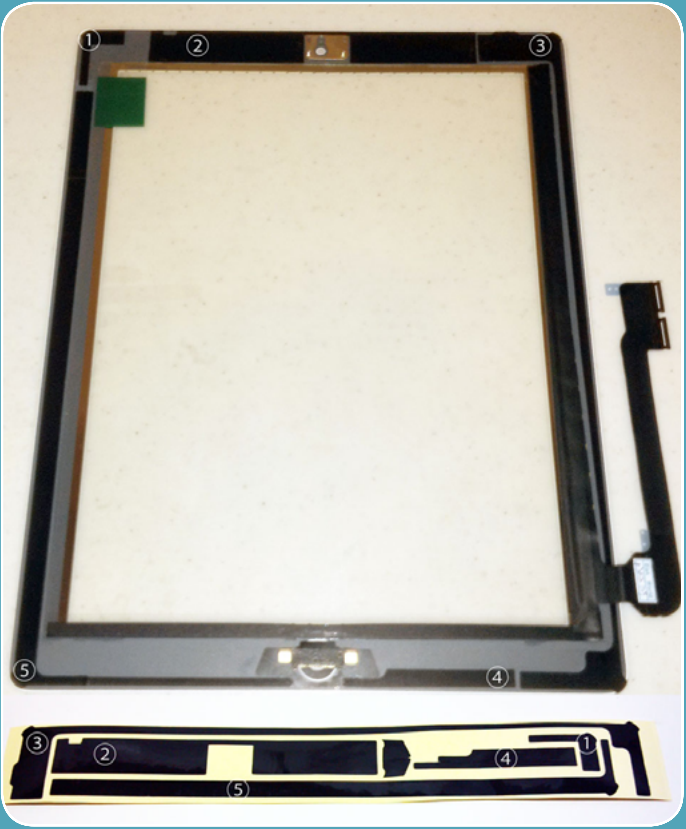
step eight

APPLY IPAD ADHESIVE



To apply the iPad 3 adhesive you will need to place the new screen so the front is facing down on a flat surface. Now grab the adhesive strips that are supplied with your kit. As you apply each of the adhesive strips around the bezel, you will want to have each strip about 2-3mm away from the edge of the glass. Don't place the adhesive all the way on the edge.

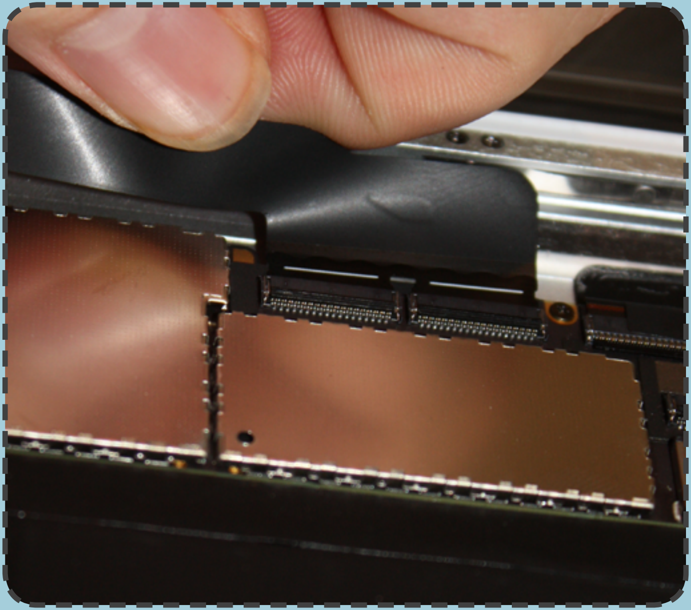
> *"This step can be a little frustrating, the adhesive is really sticky and if you don't get it lined up correctly it's a pain to rearrange. Just take your time and make sure it's lined up properly before you press down on each strip"*



TECH TIP

Make sure the adhesive does not bunch up as you are applying it. The glass will not sit flush on the frame if it is bunched.

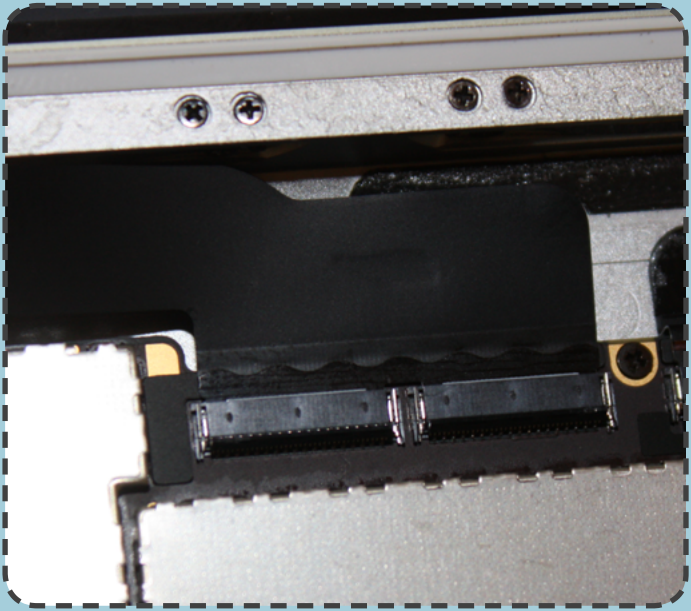
step nine CONNECT NEW DIGITIZER CABLE



Start by placing the screen facedown to the left of the iPad frame. Now find the 2 ZIF connectors on the logic board that the old ribbon cable was connected to.

Make sure the 2 small, black retaining flaps are in the upright (unlocked) position before you insert the cable.

Use the plastic opening tool to gently open these flaps if they are in the down position.

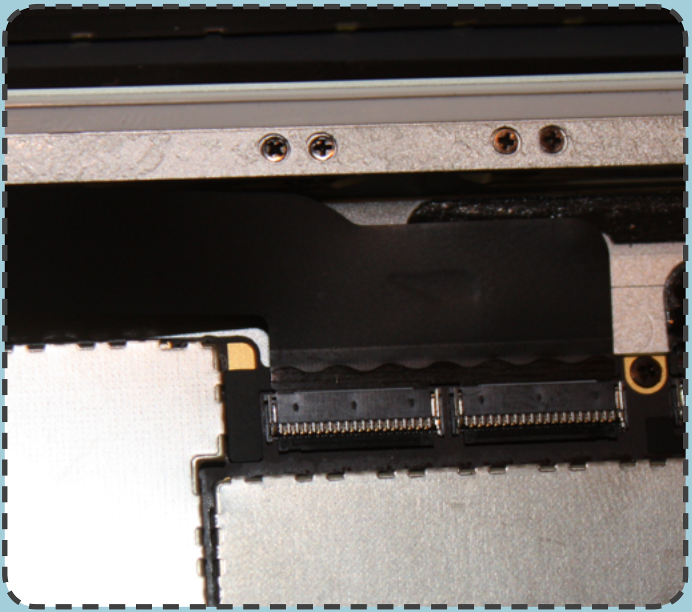


Now take the end of the ribbon cable and slide it into the 2 connectors on the logic board.

Make sure the white lines are straight. They should be flush against the edge of the connector.

Use a small piece of tape to "pull" the cable into the connectors. Place one end of the tape on top the cable in the middle between the two male connectors. Then pull the cable into the connectors.

TECH ← TIP

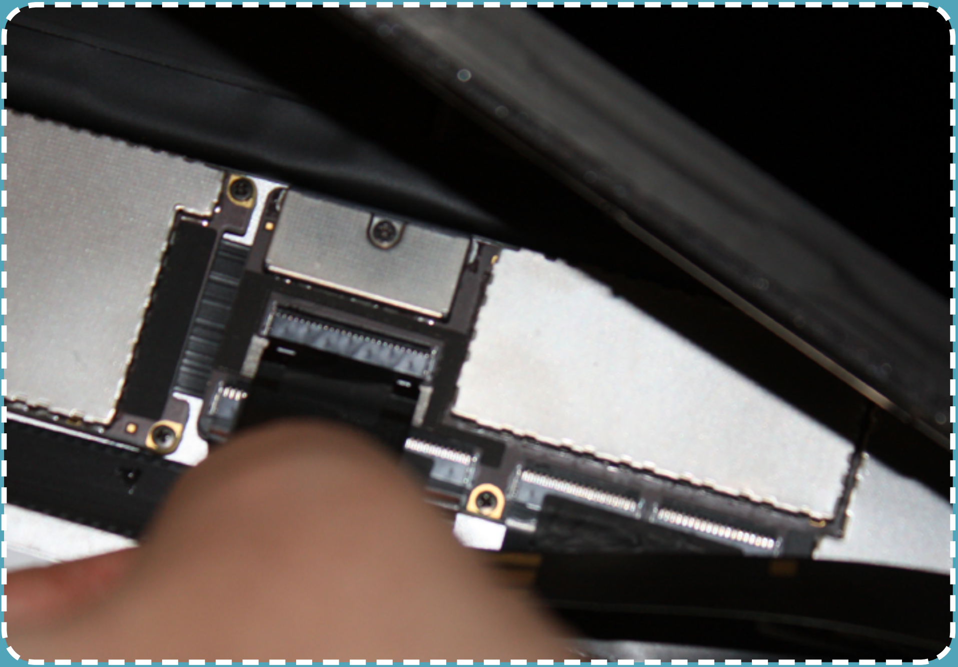


Go ahead and lock the 2 retaining flaps in the down position. Be extremely gentle. Place the black tape back where it was. It should be halfway on the connector and halfway on the ribbon cable. Finish by placing the cable down in the recessed portion of the frame. If your ribbon cable has adhesive on it, peel away the plastic tabs before placing the cable in the frame. Do NOT superglue the digitizer ribbon cable to the frame.

step ten

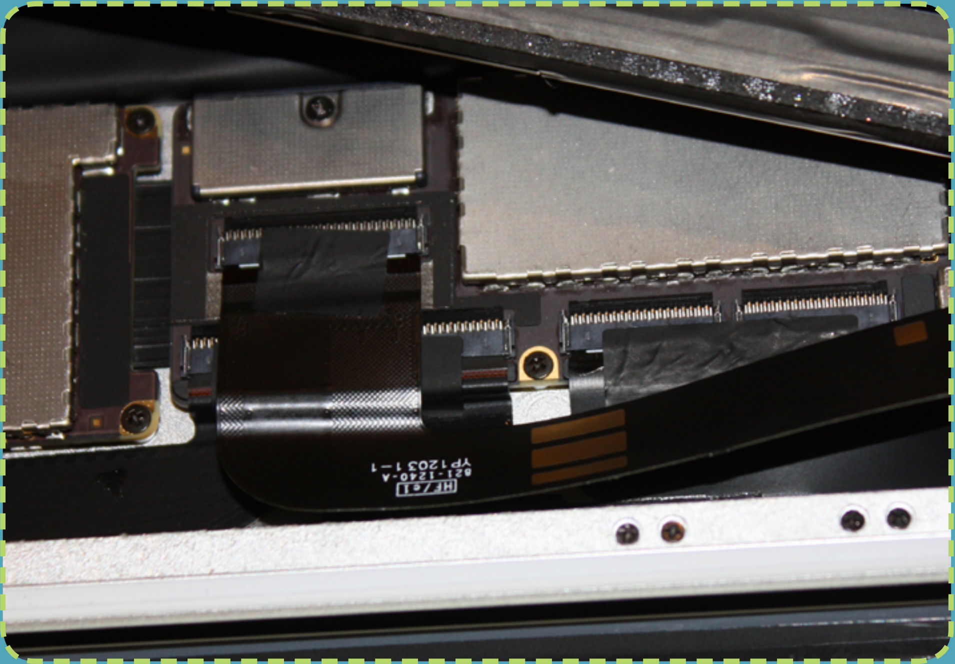
REINSTALL LCD

Start by placing the LCD facedown on the new screen that you connected to the iPad in the last step. Make sure the ribbon cable is on the right side of the LCD. Now find the ZIF connector that the LCD ribbon cable connects to.

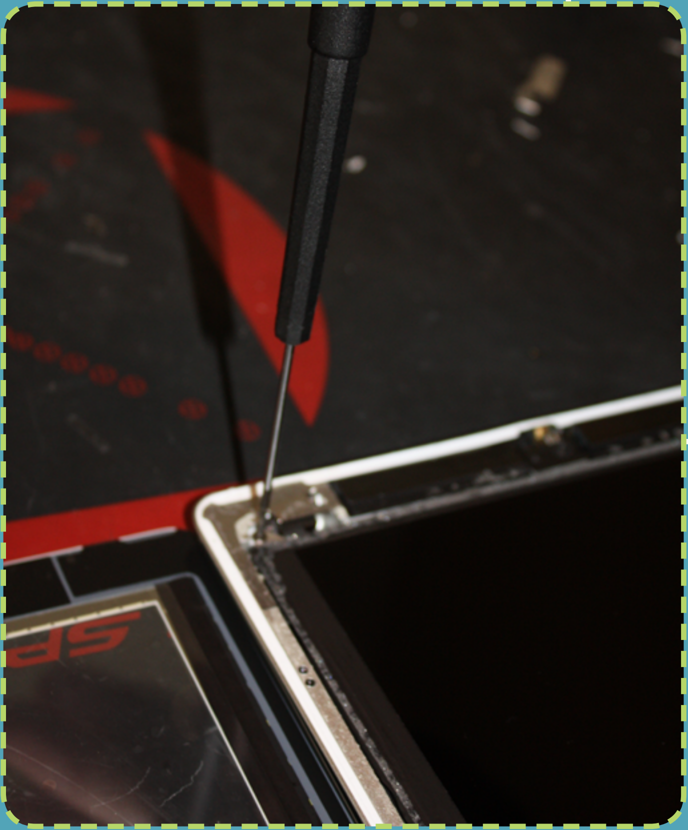


Make sure the small, black retaining flap is in the upright/unlocked position.

Use the plastic opening tool to gently open the flap if in the down position. Now take the end of the LCD ribbon cable and slide it in the connector. Slide the cable in from left to right. The dotted white line should line up with the edge of the logic board connector.



Lock the retaining flap in the down position and put the black tape back over the connector (halfway on the ribbon cable, the other half on the connector). Flip the LCD over (from left to right) so that the screen is facing up. Now gently lay the LCD down in the frame of the iPad.



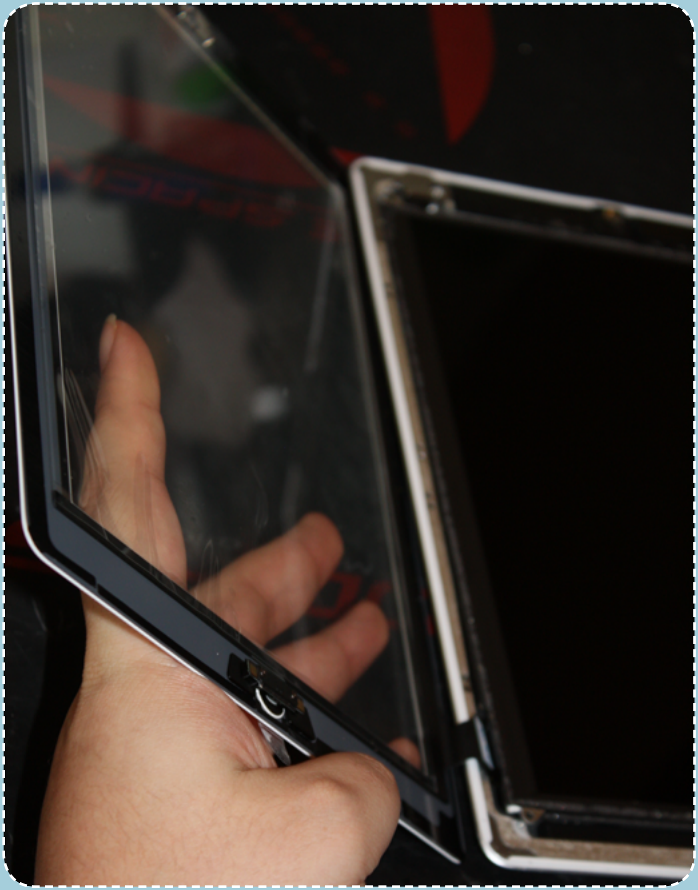
Finish by reinstalling 2 of the 4 small phillips screws into the top 2 corners of the LCD frame.

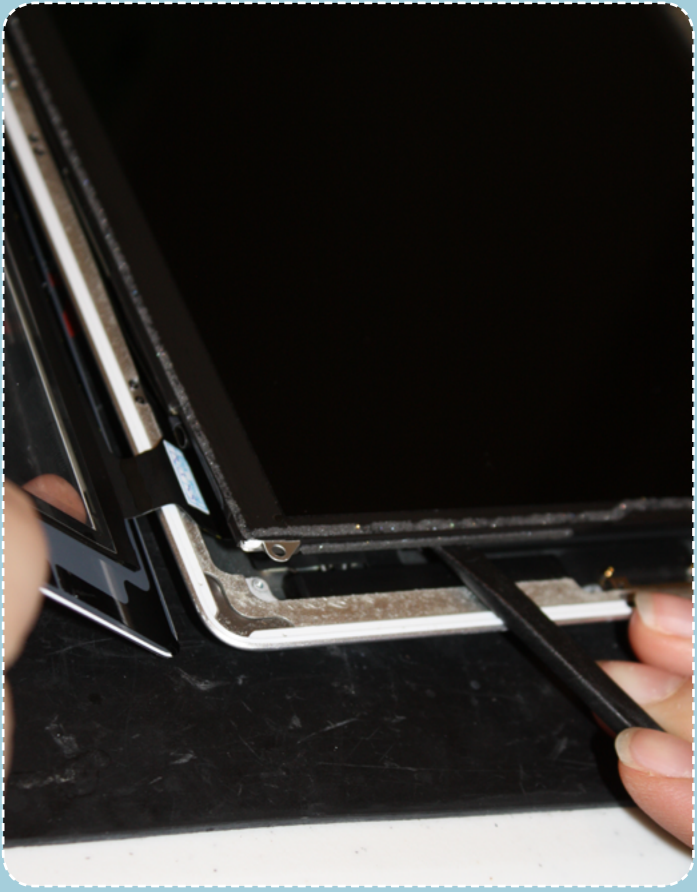
ALMOST FINISHED!

step 11

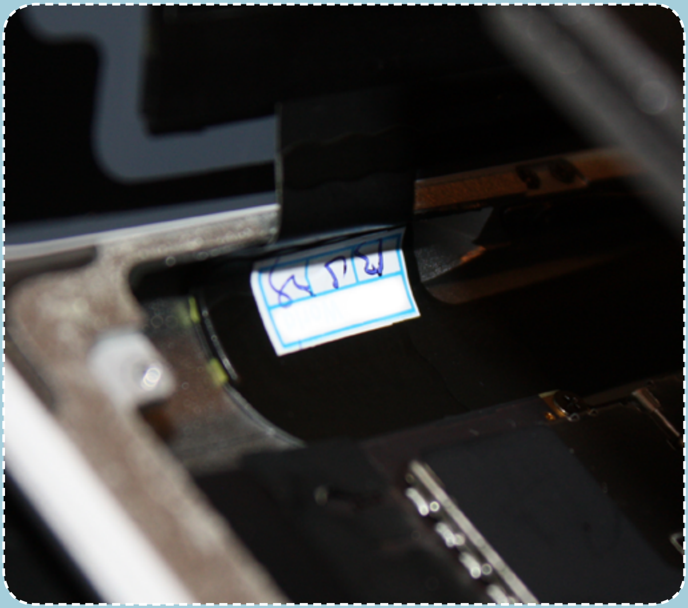
DRY-FIT & TEST THE NEW SCREEN

Do NOT peel away the adhesive from the back of the screen yet.

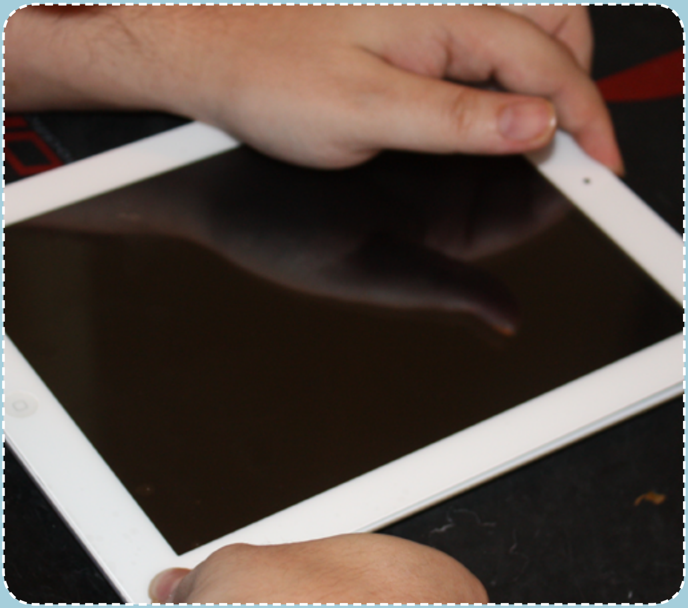




Fold over the new screen (from left to right) while making sure the cable slides under the LCD and don’t let the cable fold over itself.



The cable should sit down in the frame as pictured above.



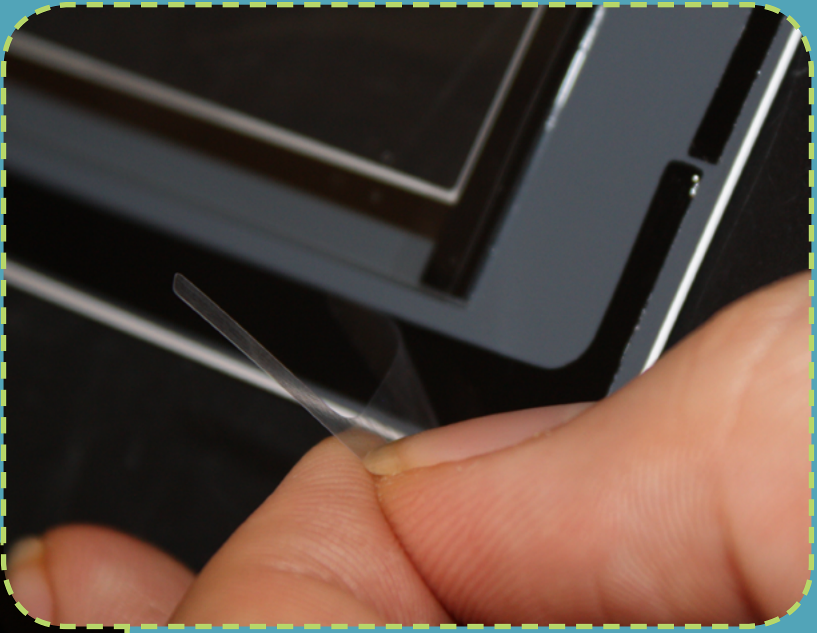
If you properly repaired the corners of the iPad, the screen should lay down in the frame without force. If it isn't fitting properly, refer to Step 7.

Now turn the iPad on. You should see the LCD power up and display the image. If not, you will want to do a hard reset on your iPad. If a hard reset is needed, you will want to hold down the power button and the home button for 15 seconds until you see the Apple logo. After the iPad powers up you can go ahead and test the touch screen to make sure it is functioning properly. We recommend using the keyboard in both portrait and landscape mode to test every portion of the screen. Test every virtual key in all 4 corners to make sure that there are no dead spots.

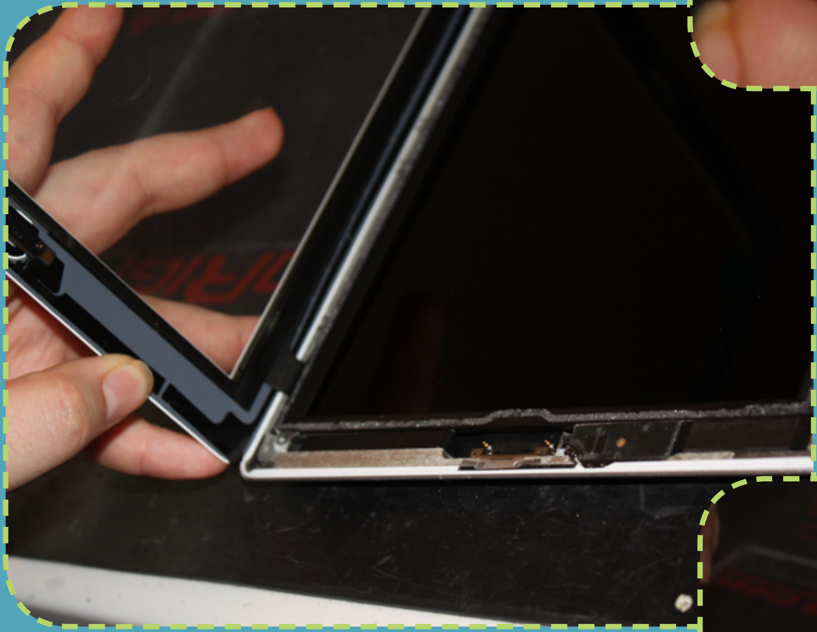
Watch a demo of us testing the screen here.

Once you've determined that everything is working properly you can move on to the 12th and final step!

step 12 INSTALL SCREEN



Now that you've determined that everything works, you can open back up the screen and peel away the layer of plastic from the adhesive strips.



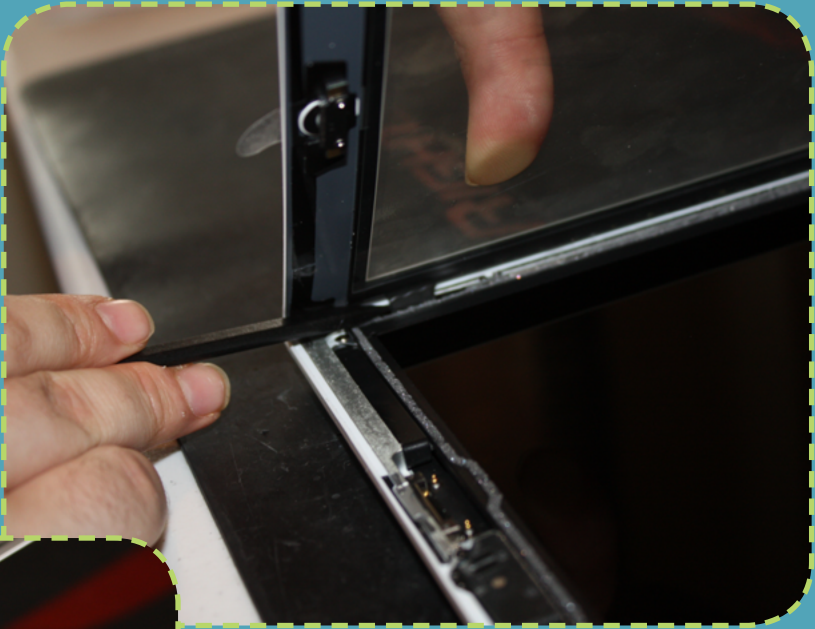
Before you secure the new screen to the frame you will want to blow off any dust that has collected on top the LCD. We recommend the air blaster or a can of compressed air. If dust still remains, you can use a microfiber cloth to remove the stubborn dust particles.

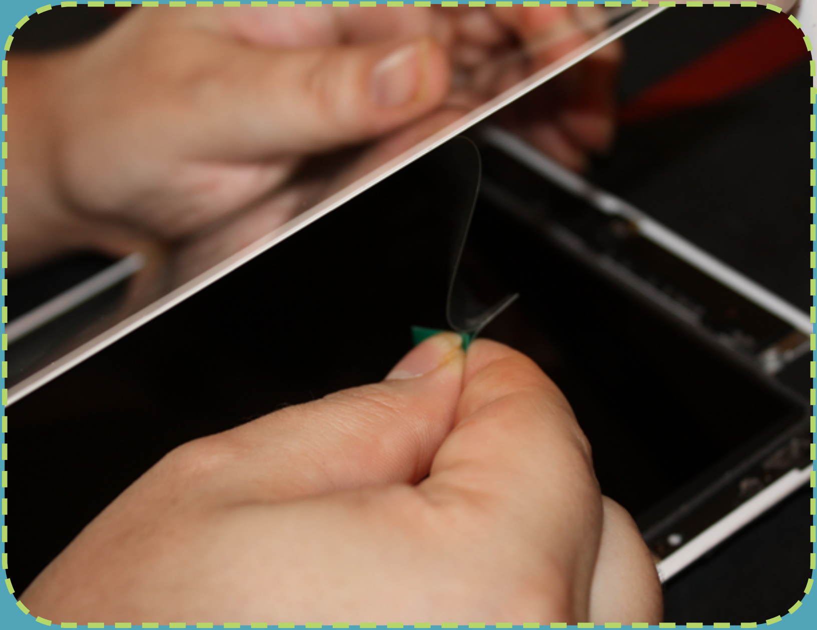
This is very important! Take your time here.

As you install the screen, you will want to use the hinge method to make sure the cable properly slides into place. Place the left side of the screen along the plastic bezel on the left side of the iPad, now carefully move the screen down into place while keeping the left edge of the screen in place. You will see that the cable will either slide in the hole between the LCD and the frame, or it might start to fold over itself.

STOP!

If the cable starts to fold over itself under the glass you could damage the touch screen functionality.





Make sure the cable slides in the hole, it will bend and flex a little, but it should NOT fold over itself and form a crease in the cable.

Once the cable starts to go in properly, you can screw in the remaining 2 small phillips screws to the bottom 2 corners of the LCD frame.

Now peel away the plastic protector that is adhered to the backside of the new screen.

TECH TIP →

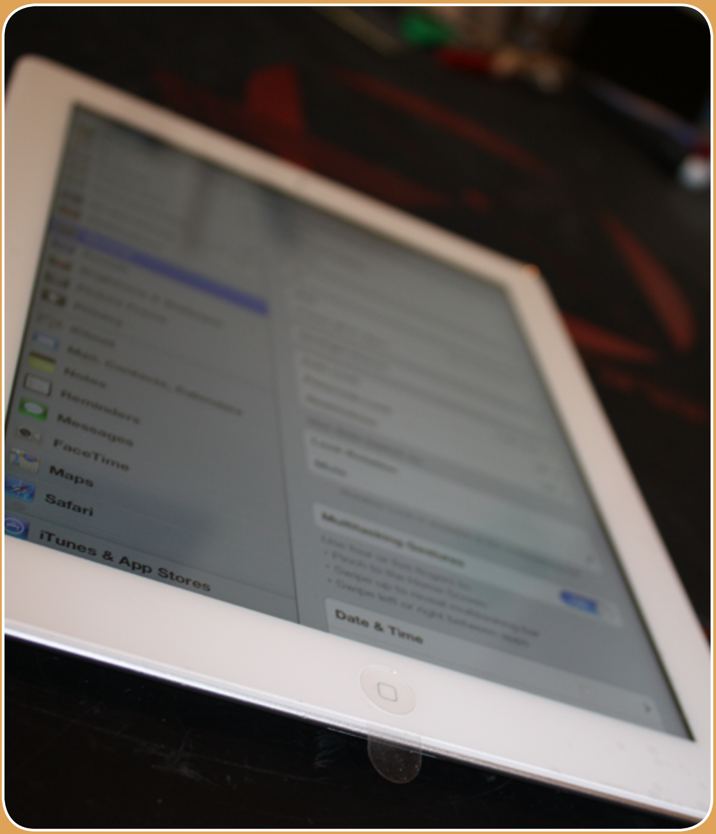
If you are having trouble sliding the cable into the crevice. Use the plastic tool to give it a nudge while closing it. Apply light pressure so you don't damage the cable.

Once the screen is all the way down, you'll want to check for dust one last time before pressing down on the screen. Also check the touch screen again to confirm functionality. If everything is testing properly, then go ahead and use your thumbs to press down on the outer edge of the screen. You may even want to use a little heat to activate the adhesive strips.

YOU MADE IT!

"You made it to the end of our Ultimate Guide, I am genuinely impressed! Take the next step and purchase the repair kit or have us do the repair for you. If you have successfully completed the repair on your own, you have superhuman tendencies and should reward yourself! Before you go, tell me your thoughts on the repair . Post your comments here"

- Joshua Muccio



(See the Video Repair Guide)

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